

## Teurai Rwafa (PhD): SARChi in Health Systems and Policy Bio-sketch

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Teurai is a recipient of the National Research Foundation Doctoral (PhD) Research Fellowship under the South African Research Chairs Initiative in Health Systems and Policy at the Centre for Health Policy, School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand. She holds a Master of Public Health degree, in the field of Social and Behavioural Change Communication, from the same institution. Teurai also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Education and Health Promotion, from the University of Zimbabwe. She recently qualified for her PhD. Her research entitled “*Institutionalization of health promotion in the South African health system*”, explored health promotion and health systems strengthening in South Africa. The findings from this research has been presented at various local and international conferences. A network of civil society, Teurai is now part of in the country lobbying for an independent South African Health Promotion and Development Foundation among government officials and policy elites is using some evidence from her research to help strengthen the case for a health promotion agenda. She has been invited to be part of a small group to present to the Director-General at the National Department of Health. Teurai was recently offered employment by the SAMRC/Wits Centre for Health Economics and Decision Science (PRICELESS SA) as a Researcher. The work she is involved in includes promoting healthy food environments and policy change, particularly with respect to non-communicable diseases as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security in South Africa. She has also assisted the Wits School of Public Health in collaboration with WHO/TDR, and the University of Ghana’s School of Public Health to strengthen capacity in Gender Based Analysis of Vector Borne Diseases and Climate Change through an online short course for the African region.

### Peer reviewed articles (2020)

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1. **Rwafa-Ponela T.**, Christofides N., Eyles J. and Goudge J. (2020). Health promotion capacity and institutional systems: A three-level assessment of the South African Department of Health. *Health Promotion International Journal*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daaa098>
2. **Rwafa-Ponela T.**, Eyles J., Christofides N. and Goudge J. (2020). Implementing without guidelines, learning at the coalface: a case study of health promoters in an era of community health workers in South Africa. *BMC Health Research and Policy Systems*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-020-00561-5>

## Conference proceedings (2020)

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1. **T. Rwafa-Ponela**, N. Christofides, J. Eyles and J. Goudge, J. Poster Presentation - *Health promotion capacity and institutional systems: An assessment of the South African Department of Health*. Geneva Health Forum (GHF). Theme: Learning from the field. Virtual Conference: November 2020
2. **T. Rwafa-Ponela**, J. Eyles, N. Christofides and J. Goudge: Poster Presentation - *Implementing without guidelines, learning at the coalface: A case study of health promoters in an era of community health workers in South Africa*. Geneva Health Forum (GHF). Theme: Learning from the field. Virtual Conference: November 2020
3. **T. Rwafa-Ponela**, J. Goudge, and N. Christofides. Poster Presentation - Institutionalization of health promotion in the South African health system: A qualitative case study- *“The one who pays you has no name for you”*. Sixth Health Systems Research Global Symposium. Theme: Engaging Political Forces, Virtual Conference: November 2020
4. **T. Rwafa-Ponela**, J. Goudge, and N. Christofides. Oral Presentation - Institutionalization of health promotion in the South African health system: A qualitative case study- *“The one who pays you has no name for you”*. Wits Faculty of Health Sciences Biennial Research Day. Theme: Education, Policy and Systems, Virtual Conference: September 2020
5. **T. Rwafa-Ponela**, J. Eyles, N. Christofides and J. Goudge: Poster Presentation - *Implementing without guidelines, learning at the coalface: A case study of health promoters in an era of community health workers in South Africa*. The 11<sup>th</sup> Wits Cross Faculty Postgraduate Symposium, Virtual Symposium: September 2020

## Achievements and Awards (2020)

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**2020:** Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA) Tobacco Control Research Agenda Grant

**2020:** Sixth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2020) Speaker Scholarship

**2020:** Geneva Health Forum (GHF2020) Conference Travel Grant

## Service and Collaborations (2020)

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**September 2020 – to date:** Health Promotion and Development Foundation Network of South Africa – part of a group of civil society members advocating for health promotion.

**September 2019 – to date:** Geneva Health Forum 2020 - “Learning from the field”: part of the Technical Working Group aimed at addressing power imbalances and jointly driving change.

